

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 065786  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PA-02 H-02  
SSM-05 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 SS-15  
MCT-01 HA-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 /097 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH:LHW  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. CARTER  
H - MR. FLATEN  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER  
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY  
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----111828 150229Z /73

O 150104Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USCINCEUR  
DOD  
JCS  
CIA  
USIA  
NSC

UNCLAS STATE 065786

CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 14

1. HODDING CARTER TERMINATED PRESS BRIEFING TODAY FOLLOWING ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HIM OF DEVIOSNESS (POLAKOFF, JEWISH TELEGRAPH AGENCY), WHICH HE EMPHATICALLY DENIED, AND OUTBURST AMONG CORRESPONDENTS OCCASIONED BY CONTENTIOUS AND RAMBLING QUESTION (KINSOLVING, MC NAUGHT SYNDICATE).  
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LATER CARTER HELD INFORMAL BRIEFING FOR NEWSMEN, USING FOLLOWING GUIDANCES PROVIDED BY NEA. POSTS MAY USE AS DIRECT QUOTES FROM THE SPOKESMAN.

2. EGYPTIAN REACTION TO PALESTINIAN RAID ON ISRAEL:

Q. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S STATEMENT CRITICIZING THE PALESTINIAN RAID?

A. --WE WELCOME PRESIDENT SADAT'S STATESMANLIKE POSITION WHICH WE FEEL IS IN KEEPING WITH HIS ENTIRE APPROACH TO SEEKING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE WELCOME ALL CONDEMNATIONS OF TERRORISM.

Q. WAS THE SADAT MESSAGE ALSO CARRIED IN ARABIC?

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Q. WERE YOU IN CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT SADAT BEFORE HIS STATEMENT TODAY TO ASK HIM TO MAKE IT?

A. --AS I SAID YESTERDAY, WE ARE NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON THIS MATTER.

Q. HAS THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TRANSMITTED A WARNING THROUGH THE USG TO ISRAEL AGAINST RETALIATING FOR THE PALESTINIAN ATTACK ON ISRAEL?

A. --THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT TRANSMITTED ANY MESSAGE ON THIS SUBJECT TO US FOR ISRAEL.

3. ISRAELI REQUEST TO CLOSE PLO OFFICES:

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Q. WHAT RESPONSE DID ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON GIVE THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO HIS REQUEST THAT PLO OFFICES BE CLOSED IN THE UNITED STATES?

A. --WE UNDERSTAND THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST WAS PART OF AN ISRAELI EFFORT WORLDWIDE TO CLOSE PLO OFFICES.

--WE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT WE WOULD REVIEW THE SITUATION.

--PENDING THAT REVIEW, I HAVE NOTHING MORE FOR YOU.

Q. WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR POSITION ON THE PLO MISSION AT THE UNITED NATIONS?

A. --WE OPPOSED THE PLO'S BEING GIVEN OBSERVER STATUS AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

--ONCE IT WAS ACCEPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HOWEVER, WE ARE BOUND UNDER THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT THAT STATUS.

--BUT WE ARE NOW REVIEWING THE LAWS AND PRECEDENTS AFFECTING ITS OPERATIONS.

Q. IS THE PLO OBSERVER MISSION ANY DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS OPERATING AT THE UN?

A. --THE PLO IS IN THE CATEGORY OF A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AT THE UN. ON DETAILS OF OTHERS HAVING THAT STATUS, YOU SHOULD CHECK THE UNITED NATIONS.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE PLO INFORMATION OFFICE IN NEW YORK?  
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A. --IT WAS OPENED IN 1965, PURSUANT TO THE LAW.

--UNDER OUR LAW, A FOREIGN ORGANIZATION CAN REGISTER WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ITS INTENTION TO OPEN SUCH AN OFFICE, AND IT CAN OPERATE SUCH AN OFFICE IN NEW YORK AS LONG AS IT OBSERVES OUR LAWS AND MAKES PERIODIC REPORTS OF ITS ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL DISBURSEMENTS.

--OUR VIEW HAS BEEN THAT, AS LONG AS IT COMPLIES WITH ALL RELEVANT LAWS AND IS STAFFED BY PEOPLE WHO ENTERED THE U.S. LEGALLY, IT CAN REMAIN IN OPERATION.

--WE ARE, HOWEVER, AS I SAID EARLIER, REVIEWING ALL LAWS AFFECTING ITS STATUS.

Q. WHY DID YOU GIVE A PLO MEMBER PERMISSION TO OPEN THAT OFFICE?

A. --ITS HEAD IS A PERMANENT ALIEN RESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND, THEREFORE, WITHIN OUR LAWS.

Q. WHAT IS THE LATEST ON A PLO OFFICE BEING OPENED IN WASHINGTON?

A. --WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT THE PLO IS PLANNING TO OPEN THE INFORMATION OFFICE WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IN 1976.

--THE SAME PROVISIONS OF THE LAW APPLY HERE AS THEY DO TO THE PLO INFORMATION OFFICE IN NEW YORK.

--OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ACTUAL OPENING OF THIS OFFICE REMAINS THE SAME.

IF PRESSED: WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE A PLO OFFICE OPENED  
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IN WASHINGTON.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT PLO MEMBERS CAN NOW BE ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE MC GOVERN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL OF AUGUST, 1977, REGARDLESS OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THIS TERRORIST

ORGANIZATION? (OR ANY SUCH QUESTION ABOUT THE NEW LAW).

A. --THE STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION BILL, WHICH THE PRESIDENT SIGNED AUGUST 17, INCLUDES AN AMENDMENT MANDATING CHANGES IN THE WAY WE DEAL WITH VISA CASES OF PERSONS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS SOLELY BECAUSE OF THEIR AFFILIATION WITH PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS. (EXACT LANGUAGE OF THE AMENDMENT IS AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE.)

--AS THE AMENDMENT MAKES CLEAR, THIS NEW LAW IS AIMED AT FULLER U.S. COMPLIANCE WITH THE HELSINKI ACCORD. IN THAT SPIRIT, IT WAS AIMED AT ALLOWING OTHERS WITH WHOSE VIEWS WE DISAGREED MORE OPEN ACCESS TO OUR SOCIETY.

--THE LAW, HOWEVER, DOES NOT CHANGE THE FACT THAT THERE ARE PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE PLO. AS IN THE PAST, ALL REQUESTS BY MEMBERS OR REPRESENTATIVES OF SUCH ORGANIZATIONS FOR VISAS TO TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES WILL BE EXAMINED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

--NO TERRORISTS OR PERSONS BENT ON SABOTAGE WILL BE ALLOWED INTO THE UNITED STATES UNDER THIS LAW.

--THERE IS A PRESUMPTION IN THE NEW LAW THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL RECOMMEND TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT A WAIVER BE GRANTED TO PERSONS AFFILIATED UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE PLO, UNLESS IT IS DETERMINED THAT THEIR ADMISSION "WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES."

--AS I HAVE SAID, ALL VISA APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY EXAMINED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

Q. WHAT WILL THE STATE DEPARTMENT DO IF A PLO REPRESENTATIVE REQUESTS A VISA IN ORDER TO OPEN AND MAN A PLO INFORMATION OFFICE IN WASHINGTON?

A. --AS I SAID EARLIER, ALL REQUESTS FOR VISAS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE EXAMINED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

--OUR ATTITUDE REMAINS THE SAME.

Q. HAVE ANY PLO OFFICIALS MADE AN ATTEMPT TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES TO OPEN AN OFFICE OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON?

A.--NONE HAS REQUESTED A VISA TO OPEN THE OFFICE.

--FROM TIME TO TIME PLO MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ADMITTED, WHO WERE NOT OTHERWISE EXCLUDABLE, FOR INSTANCE, FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS.

--CONSIDERATION IS ON A CASE-B Y-CASE BASIS. NONE WITH TERRORIST CONNECTIONS, OR BENT ON TERRORISM OR SABOTAGE, HAS BEEN ADMITTED.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE NOON BRIEFING ON MARCH 13, THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS WERE POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE.

Q. IS SAUDI ARABIA PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PLO OR JUST PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE REFUGEES? HOW DO WE KNOW WHERE SAUDI MONEY IS GOING?

A. THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED US THAT ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PLO IS FOR THE REFUGEES AND THAT IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO SAUDI POLICY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT OF ANY KIND FOR TERRORISM.

Q. HAVE WE EVER TALKED TO THE SAUDIS ABOUT THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS?

A. YES, ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS OVER THE YEARS INCLUDING QUITE RECENTLY.

Q. WHAT GOVERNMENTS HAVE WE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ON THE TERRORIST RAID OTHER THAN THE ISRAELI AND LEBANESE?

A. --WE HAVE EXPRESSED PUBLICLY OUR ABHORRENCE AT THIS TERRORIST ACT. AS THE SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY, WE CANNOT GO INTO OUR DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON THIS MATTER.

5. SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID IN SUBSTANCE:

Q. IF ISRAEL CROSSES INTERNATIONAL BORDERS USING U.S.-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT, WOULD THAT VIOLATE ANY AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNITED STATES?

A. --STANDING POLICY REQUIRES AMERICAN APPROVAL OF U.S.-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT EXCEPT FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

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DRAFTED BY:EUR/WE:EMROWELL:MS

APPROVED BY:EUR/WE:ROWELL

-----054505 191203Z /15

R 190135Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUFHLA/AMEMBASSY VALLETTA 0000

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 065786 ACTION AMMAN, BEIRUT, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, JERUSALEM, JIDDA, TEL AVIV, MANAMA, RABAT, SANA, TEHRAN, TRIPOLI, TUNIS, SINAI, DHAHRAN, GENEVA, KHARTOUM, LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, MOSCOW, USNATO, NOUAKCHOTT, PARIS, ROME, USUN NEW YORK, ABU DHABI, ALGIERS, BAGHDAD, DOHA, KUWAIT, USCINCEUR, DOD, JCS, CIA, USIA AND NSC MAR 15.

QUOTE: UNCLAS STATE 065786

CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS SUMMARIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 6a46cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 12  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**To:** AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/6a46cec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014